

Centre For Change

Westview Centennial Secondary School

September 1999

Westview's 1999 IT Summer Camp

Twenty-six 12, 13, and 14-year olds from Oakdale, Brookview, and Westview attended IT Summer Camp at Westview's Centre for Change during the month of July.

Our campers learned many skills and concepts in graphic design, advanced web design, setting up, maintaining, and administering networks, network video broadcasting, and GIS/GPS.

The camp was very successful, attracting 14 girls and 12 boys, mostly in grades 7 and 8. Attendance was nearly perfect, and enthusiasm was palpable—the heat notwithstanding!

After introducing the basic concepts, each camper chose an area of "specialization" during the last two weeks. Our two Westview graduates, Sharmila Shewprasad and Raymond Baker, our IT Site Specialist, Phoi Phoi Ngo (also a Westview graduate), and Brian Pugh each worked with one of the specialization groups. On the final day they enjoyed each group's presentation of their work and finished with a party that two of the girls organized.

These young people accomplished many things in their four weeks of camp. They will be of great help to their teachers and peers during this next school year. Those entering grades 9 and 10 are very enthusiastic about becoming "Network Administrators" in the Centre for Change. They're also keen to help both teachers and grade nine students to use our school's GPS receivers and our GIS software and community data to achieve the curricular expectations under Secondary School Reform (SSR).

Part way through camp, CFRB and Ming Pao Newspapers (Canada) Ltd. interviewed our kids.

During our four weeks together, many good relationships were formed, knowledge soared, and skills were developed thoroughly—what else could we be happy for!

Please take a look at the web site the students created to publish some of their work: <http://westview.nybe.on.ca/itcamp/index.htm>.

Our camp would not have been possible except for the support of our **three school Principals** and **Ellen Anderson**, who funded the camp through the TDSB Curriculum Department.

Further, we were especially grateful to **John Greer** and **Prescient International Inc.** who donated many hours to help us learn some of the GPS/GIS skills that we needed to teach our kids. We could not have added this part of the curriculum without the assistance of these knowledgeable and kind people.

Also, **Gary Michel** and **Computer Services** at 5050 helped us set up the C4C network so that it was ready in time for camp. They continue to provide superb support services.

Lastly, the donations of equipment from Compaq Canada, Cisco Canada, and our fibre network from Bell Canada gave us the infrastructure necessary to run the camp and to continue to use the Centre for Change in future.

Indeed due to the work of the many very special people working directly for or through contract with the TDSB, this camp will be remembered for a long time.

Our Vision Statement

The Centre for Change, a recent addition to the program at Westview Centennial Secondary School, is intended to build a more productive partnership between the school and the community.

The school represents a wealth of resources—both human and technical—that community agencies and groups can use to further projects of mutual interest.

More interaction with students will give community leaders an opportunity to build intergenerational strength through education about and recruitment to community initiatives.

Community organizations



What's New At Westview?

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

⇒ C4C-community meeting reminder.

Our first C4C-community meeting will be held on Thursday September 30, 1999 from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. For R.S.V.P., please contact Catherine Chiu at (416) 395-3320.

⇒ The Lieutenant Governor is coming!

On Friday, November 5, 1999, Westview is proud to present the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, the Honourable Hilary M. Weston at the opening of the "Centre for Change" and the Jane-Finch website.

⇒ www.jane-fin.org

IT'S HERE!

Yes, we've registerer the www.jane-fin.org website globally with Network Solutions in the U.S.

The site will be hosted on Westview's web server, on the backbone of the Internet.

We hope that it will be a site that will provide useful and helpful information to our community. We invite information from our partners to include on the site.

Students worked at various times over the summer to create the beginning of a site. Target date for launching: November 5, at the official opening of the Centre for Change.

Watch for more details.

⇒ SSR (Secondary School Reform):

Our first group of grade 9 students began studying under the new plan on September 7. These students will finish their high school diploma in four, not five years, as the rest of us did in past.

The Centre for Change staff are working with teachers to assist their grade 9 students learn the curriculum well by using current technologies such as GIS (Global Information Systems) and GPS (Global Positioning System). Some IT Summer Campers are helping too, having learned the basics of these technologies last July at the Centre.

New
Members Are
Always
Welcomed!

represent services and resources that both support students and allow opportunities for volunteering that furthers understanding of responsible citizenship. The outreach of the community to the school will help students to gain a greater sense of themselves within the community and the roles they might play to strengthen it.

The Centre's role will be one of identifying and activating opportunities for increased communication that will sustain a mutually rewarding partnership between Westview and the wider community.

